

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A system comprising:
2 at least one serving dish configured to support food;
3 a power source which comprises at least one portable electrical power
4 generating device, the power source providing power to heat the food.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the power source comprises at least
2 one of a battery and a fuel cell.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, comprising at least one heating element
2 configured to heat the food, the heating element being powered using the power
3 source.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, comprising a serving cart which is configured
2 to hold the serving dish and the power source.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, comprising a counter on which the serving dish
2 is placed, wherein the power source provides power to heat the counter and the heat
3 from the counter is transferred to the serving dish.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the food in the serving dish is heated to
2 at least approximately 140° F.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the serving dish is configured to fit
2 within a holder, the holder comprising water heated using power from the power
3 source.
- 1 8. A system comprising:
2 a counter;
3 at least one heating element in thermal communication with the
4 counter; and
5 a power source which comprises a portable electrical power generating
6 device and which is configured to provide power to the heating element.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the power source comprises at least
2 one of a battery and a fuel cell.

1 10. The system of claim 8, comprising a serving cart which includes the
2 counter and the power source.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the counter comprises quartz.

1 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the heating element is positioned on a
2 bottom side of the counter.

1 13. The system of claim 8, wherein the power source is configured to
2 provide direct current power to the heating element.

1 14. A system comprising:
2 at least one container supporting food;
3 at least one heating element which heats the food; and
4 at least one fuel cell configured to provide electrical power to the
5 heating element.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the container is a serving dish.

1 16. The system of claim 14, comprising a serving cart configured to hold
2 the container and the fuel cell.

1 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the container is a chafing dish.

1 18. The system of claim 14, comprising a counter configured to support
2 the container, the heating element being configured to heat the counter.

1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the container, heating element, and
2 fuel cell are portable.

1 20. A system comprising:
2 at least one container supporting food; and
3 at least one battery configured to provide power to heat the food in the
4 container to at least approximately 185° F.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the battery is configured to provide
2 power to heat the food in the container to at least approximately 200° F.

1 22. The system of claim 20, comprising a serving cart which is configured
2 to hold the container and the battery.

1 23. A chafing dish which supports food and uses at least one of a battery
2 and a fuel cell to heat the food.

1 24. The chafing dish of claim 23, comprising at least one heating element
2 positioned underneath the chafing dish, the heating element being powered by at least
3 one of the battery and the fuel cell.

1 25. The chafing dish of claim 24, wherein the battery or fuel cell is
2 configured to provide direct current power to the heating element.

1 26. A chafing dish supporting food and using direct current power to heat
2 the food.

1 27. A serving cart comprising:
2 a surface;
3 at least one heating element which heats the surface; and
4 a power source which comprises at least one of a battery and a fuel
5 cell, the power source being configured to provide power to the heating element.

1 28. The serving cart of claim 27, wherein the surface comprises quartz.

1 29. The serving cart of claim 27, wherein the combination of the power
2 source and the heating element is configured to maintain the surface at a temperature
3 of at least 140° F for at least 4 hours.

1 30. A method of serving food comprising:
2 positioning a plurality of serving dishes adjacent to one another on a
3 counter, the serving dishes comprising various types of food; and
4 heating food in the plurality of serving dishes using at least one of a
5 battery and a fuel cell.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the step of heating food comprises
2 using the battery or fuel cell to heat the counter which transfers the heat to the serving
3 dishes and the food.

1 32. The method of claim 30, wherein the counter comprises quartz.

1 33. The method of claim 30, wherein the positioning step comprises
2 positioning the plurality of serving dishes on a serving cart.

1 34. A system comprising:
2 a counter which comprises quartz;
3 at least one heating element in thermal communication with the
4 counter; and
5 a power source which provides power to the heating element.

1 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the counter comprises at least
2 approximately 80 wt.% quartz.

1 36. The system of claim 35, wherein the counter comprises at least
2 approximately 2 wt.% organic resin.

1 37. The system of claim 34, wherein the heating element is enclosed by
2 counter.

1 38. A system comprising:
2 at least one container supporting food;
3 at least one heating element which heats the food; and
4 at least one photovoltaic cell configured to provide electrical power to
5 the heating element.

1 39. The system of claim 38, comprising a serving cart configured to hold
2 the container and the photovoltaic cell.

1 40. The system of claim 38, wherein the container is a chafing dish.

1 41. The system of claim 38, comprising a counter configured to support
2 the container, the heating element being configured to heat the counter.

1 42. The system of claim 38, wherein the container, heating element, and
2 photovoltaic cell are portable.